Survey of under ground water resources in Rajasthan

1604. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have conducted a detailed survey of underground water resources in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the results of Hydrogeological surveys and scientific exploration, the Ground Water resources of Rajasthan have been estimated at 16.224 cubic kilometers.

Vacating of villages in Narmada valley

1605. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments have ordered the tribal villagers in the Narmada Valley to vacate their villages in January, 1992 since those villages are under submergence because of the construction of the dam there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tribals living in that area have objected to the vacation from their villages and the agitation is going on; and

(c) what measures Government have taken for settling the dispute by amicable means?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have issued notices in January 1992 to the tribal villagers who are likely to be affected by temporary submergence during 1992 monsoon due to pondage as well as natural flood estimated on "one in hundred years flood" and its back water effects due to construction of the dam. As per the provision of Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award, the oustee families must vacate the submergence area at least six months before the onset of submergence season.

(b) While the trivals living in the area of Gujarat are not objecting to the vacation from their villages, villagers from Manibeli village in Maharashtra havo objected to the vacation from the village and agitation is going on.

(c) Government of Maharashtra have further liberalised the rehabilitation policy in February 1992 by which all the major sons and daughters will get agricultural land, house plots and other monetary benefits. Publicity compaign has also been started in the submergence villages to inform the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) abut the Rehabilitation and Resettlement packages vis-a vis the benefits that would accrue from the project when completed non Government Voluntary Organisation (NGVOs) have also been actively engaged in the Rehabilitation & Resettlement work of the project. The Government of Maharashtra is also trying to start dialogue with the villagers of Manibeli who have not shifted so far.

Linking of rivers in the country

1606. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether linking of Southern rivers namely Mahanadi—Godavari—Krishna—Cauveri has been considered afresh: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency has taken up the study of the national perspective plan for water resources development formulated in 1980. The study under peninsular development component *inter-alia* envisages inter-linking of Mahanadi—Godavari—Krishna—Pennar—Cauvery and Vaigai rivers. It has so far prepared preliminary feasibility reports of nine links, four of which form part of the Mahanadi—Godavari — Krishna—Pennar—Cauvery—Vaigai